

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11 and 13-21, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1, 3, 9 and 21 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification (see, e.g., original claims; page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 20; and page 13, lines 14-18 of the specification). Claims 3 and 21 have been amended to moot the objections to those claims.

1. Claims 1-3, 14-18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Kim et al. U.S. Patent 6,998,487. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7, which was not subject to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

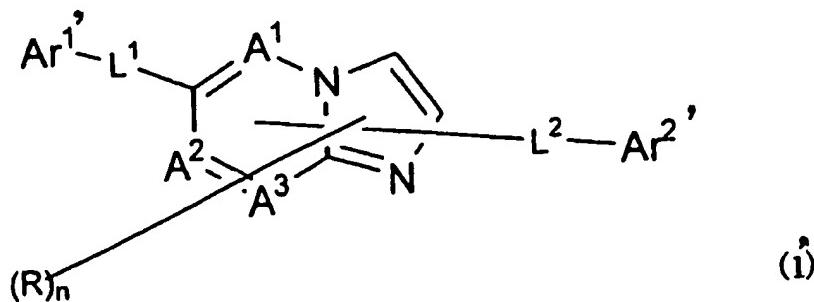
2. Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim. Claims 2 and 6 depend from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7, which was not subject to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

3. Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim in view of Kido et al. U.S. Patent 6,013,384. Claims 19 and 20 depend indirectly from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7, which was not subject to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

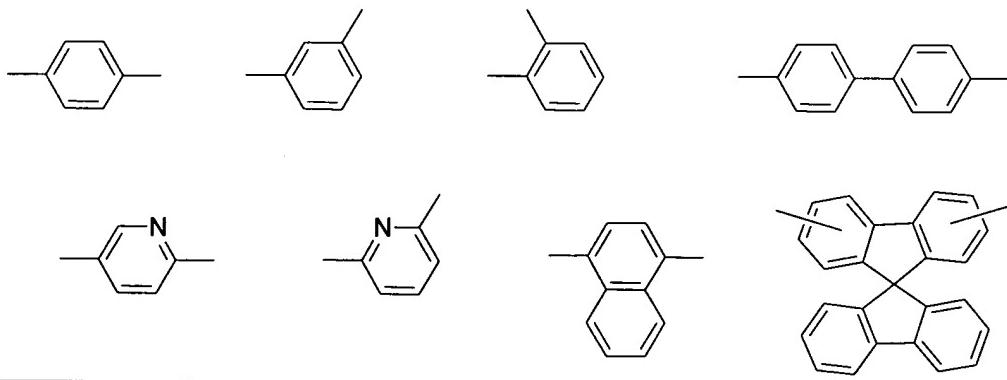
4. Claims 9-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Nakatsuka et al.

JP 2001-035664.

Applicants' claim 9 recites a derivative of heterocyclic compound having nitrogen atom represented by general formula (1'):



wherein one of $-L^1-Ar^1$ and $-L^2-Ar^2$ comprises a divalent group as the L^1 or L^2 group and a substituted or unsubstituted condensed cyclic group having 10 to 60 nuclear carbon atoms as the Ar^1 or Ar^2 group, wherein the divalent group is selected from the following groups:



Nakatsuka does not disclose applicants' claimed $-L^1-Ar^1$ or $-L^2-Ar^2$ structure comprising both one of the above divalent groups at the L^1 or L^2 group position and a substituted or unsubstituted condensed cyclic group having 10 to 60 nuclear carbon atoms at the Ar^1 or Ar^2 group position. In Nakatsuka's compound A-50, the naphthyl group is directly linked to the heterocyclic structure, not to one of applicants' claimed divalent groups

as discussed above. Thus, Nakatsuka's compound A-50 is not a position isomer of applicants' claimed compounds. In addition, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, there is no teaching or suggestion in Nakatsuka to further functionalize the compounds of Nakatsuka or to use the Suzuki coupling reaction.

Alleged obviousness, based on structural similarity, is rebuttable by proof that the claimed compounds possess unexpectedly advantageous or superior properties. MPEP § 2144.09(VII) (citing In re Papesch, 315 F.2d 381 (C.C.P.A. 1963) and In re Wiechert, 370 F.2d 927 (C.C.P.A. 1967)).

Applicants' claimed organic electroluminescent device exhibits superior and unexpected properties, namely, excellent luminance and higher light efficiency even at lower voltage. For instance, the absence of the claimed Ar¹ group results in a significantly lower luminance and efficiency of light emission (compare the device of Examples 18 to 21 to that of Comparative Example 3 (showing excellent luminance and higher light efficiency even at lower voltage)).

Nakatsuka discloses nothing that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention or its attendant advantages to one of ordinary skill in this art. There is no disclosure or teaching in Nakatsuka, or anything else in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Thus, applicants' claims are not obvious over Nakatsuka. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

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Accordingly, all claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11 and 13-21 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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